

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CEQ-01 AGRE-00 HEW-04
LAB-04 COME-00 MED-02 EB-08 INT-05 NSF-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /054 W
-----115567 241307Z /46
R 240745Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 092
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

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PASS TO EPA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OVIP, IT
SUBJ: VISIT OF MS. ALICE POPKIN AND MR. OAKLEY, EPA

REF: STATE 011389

1. TWO SINGLE ROOMS WITH BATH RESERVED AT HOTEL SISTINA FOR PERIODS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. (HOTEL SISTINA, VIA SISTINA 136, TEL: 4758804, 13.50 DLRS PER DAY INCL. TAXES, SERVICE AND BREAKFAST).

2. PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOLLOWS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

1200 - MEETING WITH HON. POSTAL, UNDERSECRETARY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
1530 - MEETING WITH PROF. ARNALDO LIBERTI, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) LAB OF AIR POLLUTION.
1800 - DRINKS WITH AMBASSADOR GARDNER AT RESIDENCE.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

1200 - MEETING WITH PROF. ROBERTO PASSINO, DIRECTOR, CNR LAB FOR RESEARCH ON WATERS.
1330 - LUNCH HOSTED BY PROF. PASSINO.
1600 - MEETING AT MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITH CATELANI, CORTELLESA AND ENVIRONMENT EXPERTS.

SATURDAY, FRIDAY 4

0900 - MEETING WITH PROF. SILVIO GARATTINI, DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE MARIO NEGRI

1030 - MEETING WITH PROF. LUIGI GIANNICO, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
PUBLIC HEALTH, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PROF. F. POCCHIARI, DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, AND OTHER MINISTRY EXPERTS.
OTHER APPOINTMENTS WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF RESEARCH,
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND POSSIBLY ENPI AS WELL AS EMBASSY
BRIEFING ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT ARE STILL BEING
SCHEDULED.

3. FOLLOWING ARE BIODATA AVAILABLE SO FAR OF KEY PERSONS TO BE MET:

ARNALDO LIBERTI IS DIRECTOR OF CNR LAB OF AIR POLLUTION
SINCE 1970, PROFESSOR OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AT ROME UNIVERSITY
SINCE 1958, GRADUATE IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AT UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA IN 1948.

PROF. ROBERTO PASSINO IS A GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF ROME
IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, DIRECTOR OF CNR LAB FOR RESEARCH ON
WATERS SINCE 1964, PROF. OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY AT UNIV. OF ROME.

PROF. LUIGI GIANNICO IS A GRADUATE IN MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY
OF BOLOGNA IN 1949, SPECIALIZATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH AT
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BOLOGNA UNIVERSITY IN 1951, ENTERED GOVERNMENT SAME YEAR, IN
1973 BECAME DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, TEACHER AT
UNIV. OF ROME AND CATHOLIC UNIV., PRESIDENT, CENTRAL COMMISSION
FOR ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

PROF. FRANCESCO POCCHIARI GRADUATED IN CHEMISTRY AT UNIV.
OF ROME IN 1948, IN 1949 ENTERED INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AS
RESEARCHER, IN 1956 BECAME UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF APPLIED
BIOCHEMISTRY, IN 1971 BECAME DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF HEALTH.

4. SCIATT WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE CAUTION IN INQUIRING ABOUT
SEVESO, WHICH IS STILL A VERY SENSITIVE SUBJECT HERE. NEVERTHE-
LESS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. POLICY AND
RESEARCH GOALS BY EXPRESSING INTEREST IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
STUDIES, DATA ON DEGRADATION OF DIOXIN AND OTHER TECHNICAL
ASPECTS. GARATTINI IS COMING FROM MILAN ON FEBRUARY 4
EXPLICITLY TO TALK ABOUT SEVESO; SCIATT REGARDS HIM AS ONE OF
THE BEST-INFORMED INDIVIDUALS. HIS MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE, A
NON-PROFIT PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WAS ABLE TO MOVE
QUICKLY AFTER THE INCIDENT TO GATHER DATA ON DIOXIN LEVELS FOR
THE LOMBARDY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION. IN ADDITION, POCCHIARI,
WHOSE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS PROVED

LARGELY INEFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH THE SEVESO PROBLEM, IS A KEY MAN FOR TWO REASONS: THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS VETO POWER OVER ALL LOMBARDY REGIONAL DECISIONS; AND HE HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO NORTON NELSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY SCIENCES COMMITTEE THAT VISITED SEVESO IN APRIL 1977 TO ACTIVATE A BILATERAL COMMITTEE FOR LONG-TERM STUDIES. GARATTINI WOULD ALSO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS INITIATIVE TO THE U.S. NAS SHOULD FOR THE MOMENT BE REGARDED AS THE PRIMARY MECHANISM FOR BILATERAL ACTION ON SEVESO, A VIEW HE WILL DEVELOP IN MORE DETAIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EPA AND HEW AS WELL AS OTHER U.S. AGENCIES SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, USE THIS UNOFFICIAL MECHANISM UNTIL IT PROVES ITSELF INADEQUATE. MORE OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVEMENT WOULD ENTAIL SERIOUS RISKS OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF IMPORTANT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES.

6. THE MILAN DRINKING WATER ISSUE IS ALSO SENSITIVE (SEE FOR BACKGROUND SCIATT'S TRIP REPORT OF 12-31-77, SENT TO GANLEY, OES). GIOVANNARDI, WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE UNDERTAKING A RELATED EPIDIMIOLOGICAL STUDY IN MILAN, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MOH MEETING ON 2-4. FYI, OUR CONSULATE IN MILAN IS STILL WORKING WITH COMMUNE AUTHORITIES ON AN ADEQUATE COMMUNE PUBLIC STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PROBLEM, AND WE BELIEVE THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR PROBLEM IN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SENV, OVIP, IT, US, (POPKIN, ALICE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5de3a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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